**Supplementary information**

**Appendix S1. Details of the per-recruit model developed for Gulf Corvina (*Cynoscion othonopterus*).**

We developed a parsimonious, non-spatial, per-recruit model for Gulf Corvina (*Cynoscion othonopterus*), which estimates the female spawning-stock-biomass-per-recruit (SSBR) and yield-per-recruit (YPR) of the species in relation to the annual exploitation rates of its old adults (≥ 5 year-old individuals; ). Our model assumes that Gulf Corvina is harvested only during the spawning season (based on the results of Erisman et al. (2012b)), and that all the juveniles and young adults of Gulf Corvina (i.e., 0-4 years old individuals) escape fishing and the annual fishing mortality rate of these life stages due to bycatch is negligible (based on Walsh et al. (2004), Erisman et al. (2012a) and Pérez-Valencia (2012)). Our model also makes the assumption that the “encierre” technique used by the Gulf Corvina fishery means that there is no upper size limit to the fishery (i.e., large individuals do not escape capture); this assumption is supported by several lines of evidence, as described in detail in Erisman et al. (2014).

In the following, we first present the alternative assumptions we made regarding the growth in length and weight of Gulf Corvina in the per-recruit model. Then, we detail the calculation of SSBR, YPR and the current value of for Gulf Corvina. Finally, we describe the estimation of reference points for the species.

**Growth in length and weight**

 In the per-recruit model, Gulf Corvina is assumed to grow according to one of five alternative growth models (Figure S1): (1) the von Bertalanffy model developed in Gherard et al. (2013), referred to as the “Gherard model”; (2) the von Bertalanffy model fit to raw data in the present study; (3) the von Bertalanffy model fit to raw data bolstered by simulation values in this study; (4) the Schnute-Richards model fit to raw data in the present study; and (5) the Schnute-Richards model fit to raw data bolstered by simulation values in this study. The Gherard model assumes the following relationship between length (in mm TL) and age (in years):

Eq. S1.1:

The body weight of Gulf Corvina at age *a*, , is calculated from the length-at-age predicted by one of the five growth models as follows (Figure S2; Gherard et al., 2013):

Eq. S1.2:

**Estimation of SSBR, YPR and the current value of**

Our per-recruit model estimates SSBR as follows:

Eq. S1.3:

where is the female:male sex ratio of Gulf Corvina (which is assumed to be 1:1 for the sake of simplicity); is the natural mortality rate (0.28 year-1; estimated in Erisman et al. (2014) using Pauly (1980)’s relationship); is the exploitation rate of old adults (in year-1) (and, therefore, is the escapement rate of old adults (in year-1)); is the age of sexual maturity (2 years; Gherard et al., 2013); is the age of transition from the young adult stage to the old adult stage (i.e., 5 years); and is the maximum age (9 years; Gherard et al., 2013). It is reasonable to use exploitation rates rather than the more conventional fishing mortality rates for young and old adults of corvina, because the Gulf Corvina fishing season is very short (Erisman et al., 2014).

YPRis estimated by our pre-recruit model as follows:

Eq. S1.4:

 To determine the current value of for Gulf Corvina, we compiled length data from 2013-2015 to create a length frequency distribution. Then, we determined that is equal to 0.825 year-1, based on combinations of (Pauly, Hoenig) and three methods to calculate the total mortality rate of Gulf Corvina (Seine, LDFA, catch curves). Calculation of this rate is explained in greater detail in Erisman et al. (2014).

**Estimation of reference points**

So as to facilitate the discussions of our results, we estimated two reference points for Gulf Corvina with our per-recruit model: the maximum value of the YPR of Gulf Corvina, YPRmax; and the natural SSBR of Gulf Corvina (NSSBR), i.e., its SSBR in the absence of fishing (Figures S3 and S4).

**References of Appendix S1**

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**Appendix S2. 95% confidence intervals for the growth parameters estimated from raw data.**

 The 95% confidence intervals for the von Bertalanffy, Gompertz, logistic, Schnute and Schnute-Richards growth parameters estimated from raw data are provided in Table S1, S2, S3, S4 and S4, respectively.